

Manitou Incline Task Force Meeting

January 14, 2010

Location: Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
6:00pm – 8:00pm

In Attendance: Christian Lieber, Aimee Cox, Dan Folke, Kira Pasquesi, Lisa Rosintoski, Eric Billmeyer, Steve Bremner, Spencer Wren, Marc Straub, Neal Yowell, Sarah Tresouthick, Bill Koerner, Val St. Cloud, Frank Landis

Absent: Michelle Anthony, Tim Haas

Introductions – Participants introduced themselves and described the experience, expertise and perspectives each brings to the project. It was suggested that a representative from the military users should be added to the group. Several members did not support the idea because the property is not open to the public, and both the Cog and USFS routinely communicate with Fort Carson to keep military users off the property. It was also suggested that a member of the Manitou Springs Metropolitan Parking Board be invited to attend because of impacts to downtown parking.

Task Force Purpose and Authority – Chris Lieber lead participants through the IGA, GOCO grant and decision-making process. Dan Folke outlined the Manitou Springs Conditional Use process. In summary, Task Force members make recommendations on best management practices for opening the Incline; the Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs City Councils and the Incline property owners – Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway Company and USFS – are charged with making final decisions on whether or not the Incline is opened to public recreation.

Roles and Expectations – Chris Lieber went over the Roles and Expectations for each Task Force member as outlined in the participant notebooks. Meetings were set for the second Thursday of each month at Manitou Springs City Hall Council Chambers from 6:00pm until 8:00pm.

Review Notebooks – Participants quickly reviewed the materials provided in the participant notebooks.

Review Key Issues – Participants identified the following issues related to the opening of the Incline:

1. Drainage and sediment control
2. Maintain integrity of the water line
3. Traffic & safety of users and residents
4. Parking
 - Reduce congestion

5. Hours of Operation
 - Resident quality of life
6. Access point
 - One, not several
 - At base would mitigate traffic
 - Keep Barr trail lot for Barr Trail
7. How to fund – not an asset unless it pays for itself
 - Annual permits (arm bands)
 - Parking fees
 - Small gift shop (t-shirts, water, Power Bar)
 - Local business sponsor
 - Corporate sponsor
 - “Lift ticket” with coupon to local businesses
 - Special events
 - Work with the community to make fees less burdensome
8. Must include Barr trail in planning
 - Part of Incline network
9. Parking solutions should be comprehensive
 - Include alternatives such as a shuttle
10. Map larger trail network and provide other access points for Incline
11. Emergency access routes
 - Response on trail and places to stage equipment
12. Conditions of Ruxton and Hydro St. are not adequate for traffic
13. Parking and restrooms in one area
14. Dogs, dog waste, and dogs off leash
15. Enforcement
16. Volunteer stewardship
 - Dedicated group for Incline
17. Historic and interpretive programs
18. Provide “passive” areas for picnics, reflection, and relaxation
19. Liability
 - Who is responsible?
20. Barr Trail maintenance
 - What is required?
 - How is it funded?
21. “Dream a little” to explore all possibilities

Discuss Scope of Services – Curt DeCapite, City of Colorado Springs Procurement Services Manager, outlined the process for selecting a consultant. It will take approximately eight weeks

from the date the Request for Proposal (RFP) is released to select the consultant. A group of 5-6 people will review proposals. Participants reviewed the draft Scope of Services for the RFP. A revised version is attached. It was suggested that the Task Force or staff could prepare the history and summary of the planning process portions of the plan to reduce consultant fees. It was also suggested that the Task Force or staff conduct counts of winter users at the Incline and provide that information to the selected consultant.

Frank Landis was asked if there was any additional information the USFS would require in their consideration of granting access to USFS property for the trail. Mr. Landis indicated that the USFS was very concerned with liability from use on USFS property and that a NEPA scoping process might be required before an agreement could be established.

Define the Possibilities – Tabled until next meeting.

Public Comment – None.

Next Meeting – February 11, 2010
6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.
Manitou Springs City Hall Council Chambers
606 Manitou Avenue